

REMARKS

Claims 2-9 and 11-15 are presented for examination. These claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kapadia et al.

To more clearly define the claimed subject matter, claims 2 and 11 have been amended.

Claim 2, as amended, recites a data communication system comprising:

multiple switching devices for switching data packets, and

an expansion bus for transferring the data packets between the switching devices;

each switching device having an address processing block for comparing destination address information of a received data packet with current address information, and producing a match signal supplied to another switching device when the destination address information matches the current information.

The claim specifies that the data packet is not received from said another switching device, and that the match signal informs said another switching device that the destination address information that causes the match signal is associated with the switching device that generates the match signal.

Claim 11, as amended, recites a method of data switching in a data switching system having multiple switching devices. The method comprises the steps of:

comparing destination address information of a received data packet with first current address information maintained by a first switching device, and

supplying a match signal to a second switching device when the destination address information matches the first current address information.

The claim specifies that the data packet is not received from the second switching device, and the match signal informs the second switching device that the destination address information

that causes the match signal is associated with the first switching device that generates the match signal.

Kapadia et al. discloses a packet communication between an end switch 16a and an end switch 16b. When the station 16a originates a data packet, it broadcast an ARP signal with an IP address of the destination station 16b. The destination station replies with an ARP reply considered by the Examiner to correspond to the claimed match signal.

By contrast, claims 1 and 11 specifically indicate that in response to the destination address information of a received data packet, the match signal is supplied to a switching device different from the switching device, from which the data packet is received.

Newly-added dependent claims 16 and 17 recite that the multiple switching devices are included into a switch unit of a packet switching network.

By contrast, Kapadia et al. describes separate switches 16a and 16b of a network.

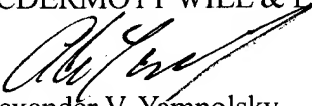
In view of the foregoing, and in summary, claims 2-9, and 11-17 are considered to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

09/593,815

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

MCDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP



Alexander V. Yampolsky
Registration No. 36,324

600 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3096
202.756.8000 AVY:MWE
Facsimile: 202.756.8087
Date: August 31, 2004